



PCT Long-Distance Travelers Frequently Asked Questions for Central Cascades Wilderness Permit Area

1. Do I need a Central Cascades Wilderness Permit (CCWP) while traveling through wilderness areas on the Deschutes and Willamette National Forest?

Long-distance PCT hikers and riders who have a Long-Distance Permit (500 miles or more) issued by the Pacific Crest Trail Association do not need Central Cascades Wilderness Permits. All other users of the PCT must obtain a Central Cascades Wilderness Permit.

2. Are there camping prohibitions specific to long-distance PCT hikers and riders?

Yes. PCT long-distance travelers must camp within a ½ mile corridor on either side of the PCT. However, see the note below.

Day use outside of this corridor is allowed.

Additionally, PCT travelers using a long-distance permit are prohibited from camping in these areas:

- Obsidian (Three Sisters Wilderness)
- North and South Matthieu Lakes (Three Sisters Wilderness)
- Coyote and Shale Lakes (Mt. Jefferson Wilderness)
- Jefferson Park (Mt. Jefferson Wilderness)

Please see the maps at the end of this document. **Attached maps do NOT include fire closure orders. Please visit the Willamette and Deschutes National Forest webpages for the latest on fire closures.

NOTE: We are seeing increasing impacts from hikers camping overnight immediately adjacent to the trail. While not prohibited, Leave No Trace best practice is to camp away from trails. Please take the time to find camping spots well away from the trail.

3. What if I want to travel less than 500 miles on the PCT, or not get a long-distance permit?

If you do not have a long-distance permit, you are required to get a Central Cascades Wilderness Permit (CCWP) through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Travel between wilderness areas is allowed with a CCWP permit only at PCT trailheads.

4. Are there fire prohibitions?

Yes. Fires are prohibited above 5,700 feet in the Three Sisters, Mt. Washington, and Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Areas and above 6,000 feet in Diamond Peak Wilderness.

There can also be seasonal fire prohibitions, so check with Willamette and Deschutes National Forest offices for any updates.

5. Are PCT hikers and riders required to follow all other wilderness regulations?

Yes. Those regulations are available here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/willamette/wilderness>

6. Is there anything else I need to know about the 2026 PCT season in Central Oregon?

Yes. There are fire closures in the vicinity of the Pacific Crest Trail, including some trailheads providing access to the PCT. However, the PCT is open for its entire length on the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests (as of March 2026; the trail may close during the summer season due to fire).

Closure area maps can be found on the Willamette and Deschutes National Forest websites.

Willamette National Forest fire closure information:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/willamette/alerts>

Deschutes National Forest fire closure information:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/deschutes/alerts>





